

7/16/80

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E.O. 12065: GDS 7/16/86 (HALLMAN, WILLIAM H.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] PEN PRISONER STATISTICS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5431. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL READING ON

NUMBERS OF "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL" PRISONERS IN ARGENTINE JAILS. WE HAVE HOWEVER BEEN GIVEN SOME FIGURES FOR "PRISONERS HELD FOR OTHER THAN COMMON CRIMES" (READ "POLITICAL PRISONERS") FOR THE FOUR MAIN PRISONS OF THE NATION: CASEROS, DEVOTO, RAWSON, AND LA PLATA. THESE NUMBERS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE AND "USEFUL", SINCE ONLY A NEGLIGIBLE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE STILL HELD ELSEWHERE IN ARGENTINA.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny)
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐ In Part) (☒ In Full)
(☐ Classify as) (☐ Extend as) (☐ Downgrade)
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Rea

3. AS OF MID-JUNE 1980 THERE WERE SOME 2,000 "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN THE FOUR JAILS MENTIONED. A TOTAL OF 1,441 OF THESE ARE LISTED AS STILL UNDER "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL." 325 OF THE 2,000 HAVE BEEN TRIED AND SENTENCED. 667 OF THE NUMBER ARE "UNDER PROCESS" -I.E. CHARGED WITH CRIME BUT NOT FINALLY CONVICTED OR CONVICTED AND UNDER AN APPEALS PROCESS. THE TOTAL --2,433 IS LARGER THAN THE TOTAL POLITICAL PRISONER POPULATION BECAUSE OF THE CONFUSING CUSTOM (TO US ANYWAY) OF MAINTAINING CERTAIN CONDEMNED PRISONERS ON THE "P.E.N. LIST" (INCLUDING SOME, WE ARE TOLD, WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SENTENCES). SIMILARLY, SOME PRISONERS

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'IN PROCESS' ARE ON THE P.E.N. LIST, SOME ARE NOT.

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4. THERE WERE SOME 920 PRISONERS WHO WERE "PEN ONLY,"
I.E. NEITHER CONDEMNED NOR CHARGED BUT HELD MERELY AT
THE CONVENIENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER. WE SPECULATE
THAT A LARGE PART OF THE "JULY 9 RELEASE LIST" (BUENOS
AIRES 5530) WERE FROM THIS CATEGORY, WHICH WOULD REDUCE
THIS GROUP--OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF
ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT--TO SOME 670 PRISONERS.
OUR SOURCE FOR THESE DATA TOLD US THAT ANOTHER LOT OF
CASES ARE BEING PRESENTLY STUDIED FOR AN OCTOBER RE-
LEASE.
CASTRO

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